Sir Henry Wotton, while he was "lying abroad" for his sovereign. It goes without saying that such influences were not confined to England. The Biblical inspiration of many of the dramas of Racine in France, and of Metastasio in Italy, is too obvious to require elaboration: and this spiritual atmosphere is known to have been reinforced, in some instances at least, by contemporary influences and personal association.

## §iv

Direct Jewish participation in English literary and intellectual life began in the generation which followed the Re-admission. In the group of poets of the mid-eighteenth century (not, it must be admitted, a very inspired period) Moses Mendes, a grandson of one of the pioneer settlers, was an interesting figure. His works were produced at Covent Garden and Drury Lane: he wrote dramatic pieces, which were set to music by Boyce and Burney, and poems and songs which echoed Spenser piously, if without inspiration. He was famous in his day as *bon viveur* and wit: and he was celebrated as one of the few English poets to leave a fortune—not, however, gained at that profession. He wrote sometimes in col-laboration with another poet of Jewish birth—Dr. Isaac Schomberg, who attended Garrick in his last illness, and whose brother Ralph was one of the most prolific and most uniformly unsuccessful writers of the generation. A kinsman of Moses Mendes, Solomon Mendes of

Clapton, was also to be met with in literary circles, and was in regular correspondence with James Thomson and Richard Savage.[1]

[1] Moses Mendes, whose sons adopted their mother's name, was grandfather of Sir Francis Bond Head, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, 1835-37 (who suppressed the 1837 rising), and of Sir George Head, Assistant Comndssary General to the Forces in 1814, both also prolific writers.